

From: BlazekAsc@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, December 13, 2003 11:17 AM
To: adoptionregs@state.gov
Subject: [Docket No: RIN 1400-AA-88; 1400-AB-69];[FR Doc: 03-28544];[Page 64296-64297];
To whom it may concern:

I am writing to protest the current regulations of the Hague Convention Treaty. As a parent of two internationally adopted children, I am extremely concerned about the ultimate outcome of enforcing these rigorous regulations. The thousands of orphaned and needy children who long to be joined with a family in the United States can only be hurt. I need not underscore the fact that there are 1500 orphanages in China, and an infant mortality rate of 51% in Guatemala. Cambodia is the third poorest country in the world and Haiti is second. These are just a few of the countries that have waiting children who would benefit from adoption. I realize that your efforts are implemented in the name of the best interests of the children; however, there are some other salient issues at stake, but most importantly the CHILDREN.

These regulations will create a monopoly for a few larger agencies when there are many smaller agencies that have successfully completed adoptions for many years. These agencies have met the needs of individuals in smaller cities and areas. A majority of people pursuing international adoption will not be able to use their local agency. Simply stated, these smaller agencies will not be able to survive financially. Fees for international adoption will be off the charts and create a situation where only a few wealthier individuals will be able to pursue this option. As a result of fewer agencies, the waiting lists for adoption will grow. There will be growing lists of "waiting parents" and "waiting children". How will the children benefit from this? This Central Authority designation of the proposed regulations will create more government and not less. I was under the impression that one of the goals of our current administration was to create a more efficient and less intrusive government.

Had these regulations been law when I adopted in 1992 and in 1998, I would have suffered hardships. With one out of five couples experiencing infertility and domestic adoption an extremely limited option, these regulations can only make the dream of becoming parents a fantasy.

Please reconsider these regulations and please do it in the NAME OF THE CHILDREN. I thank you for hearing my heartfelt concerns.

Sincerely,
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